



YOUTH IN THE CHURCH & WORLD SUNDAY

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PRELUDE (youth-provided special music)

— WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Welcome to church on this great Sunday!

Some things to share that are going on in the life of our church right now:

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ! We welcome all and rejoice in your presence with us in worship today. Please take a moment to sign the black friendship pads that are located in the pew near the aisle so that we may greet you by name, as a friend in Jesus Christ. Let us join our hearts in worship on this day!



PRAYER OF ADORATION

Youth: Please join me in prayer this morning:

Dear Loving God,

We are fragile, broken people, but you are whole, you are One.

Your forgiving grace heals each of us, making us better Christians,
and making us a stronger community of faith.

As we gather together in worship, open us up to your overwhelming
love and the peace your Spirit provides.

We thank you for your love, for the gift of grace and for guidance.

Amen.

Choral Intro: *Surely it is God Who Saves Me*

— THE APPROACH TO GOD —

Call to Worship

Youth: Let us stand and call ourselves to worship.

Youth: Lord, we trust in you and your words, and we seek to do good each day.

People: As we worship, we will be still and turn toward you, forsaking anger and wrath.

Garrett: Steadfast in your grace, we trust in you, wait and worship.

People: Let us worship God!

Hymn: *Give to the Wind Thy Fears*

GTG 815

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Youth: You may be seated. Let us confess together the burdens that rest on our hearts
and minds.

In this season of light, Revealing God, we find ourselves wandering the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all of those emotions — hatred, fear, worry — which continue to prevent us from being able to forgive. In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to forget our wrongdoings and focus on the pain that has been inflicted upon us. Forgive us, Resurrecting God, for turning away from you and your wisdom rather than trusting in your Word that endures forever. You have sent Jesus before us so that, as we follow him, we might travel from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life.

(pause five to 10 seconds for silent confession)

Youth: Amen



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND PARDON

Youth: Take delight in the good news, dear friends. Salvation is from our God who restores us to new life. God is gracious. God longs to give us our heart's desires. God provides healing and hope to all.

All: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!*

Response: *Glory Be to the Father*

#581

— PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST —

CALL TO WORSHIP

Youth: Everyone strays from God. However, we are forgiven, and God's grace finds us again and again. Be kind and compassionate to each other just as Christ has forgiven you. As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive and be reconciled with one another. The peace of our lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Hymn: *Give to the Wind Thy Fears*

GTG815

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Genesis 45:3–11, 15)

Have you ever been mad at your brother, or sister, or someone in your family?

Today's Scripture is about someone who could have been really mad at his brothers, but he decided to forgive them instead.

SKIT (One reader, silent actors — Joseph and brothers)

A long time ago, there was a boy named Joseph who had 11 brothers. The brothers did not like Joseph because their dad loved Joseph the most. One day, the brothers decided to get rid of Joseph and sold him to travelers as a slave. Eventually, Joseph ended up as a slave in Egypt in the house of the Pharaoh. Over time, the Pharaoh loved him so much that he made Joseph a very important person in charge of a lot of things. Meanwhile, Joseph's brothers were starving back home because the crops wouldn't grow, and they had no food. Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt because Egypt had lots of food. When they got there, they were shocked to find their little brother Joseph in charge of the food! The brothers were terrified of Joseph because they thought he would be angry with them for selling him into slavery. Do you think Joseph was mad at his brothers? No! He forgave his brothers, hugged them and cried tears of happiness. Even though Joseph's brothers had been horrible to him and sold him into slavery, Joseph was able to forgive them and love them.

Let's pray:

Dear God, thank you for helping us learn how to forgive. Amen.



— THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Youth: Please join me in prayer.

Dear God, let us be more forgiving and guide us to be more accepting. Open our ears and minds to listen to your word.

Old Testament Reading Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40

New Testament Reading Luke 6:27–38

SERMON

(Four youth offer five-minute sermons reflecting on the Scripture passages)

Hymn: *Commit Your Way to God the Lord*

GTG846

— GIVE THANKS TO GOD —

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please rise and join me in affirming our faith, using the Apostles' Creed, found in your bulletin:

*I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;*

*The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Youth: You may be seated. Please join me in prayer:

Almighty God, let your love pour over us today and every day. Let your love heal our brokenness.

In this world where we see so much hate, let us continue to spread your love, even to those who don't return it.

(Current events that need mention and prayer):



When we are speechless, we come back to the prayer you taught us to pray, saying ...

OUR FATHER ...

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Youth: As disciples, following the example and teachings of Jesus, the Christian way of life is affirming what we have been given, and in gratitude, offering what we have to God and to those less fortunate. We are reminded by Christ's example to treat others how we would like to be treated. We take this time to give as Christ would, in ministry to others. We give freely, using our gifts for ministry.

OFFERTORY *Be Still, My Soul*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*

GTG338

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Youth: Please remain standing. Let us pray.

Dear God, we thank you for the gifts of your people. Please help us use these gifts to care for all of your children in this broken, battered world. Amen.

Hymn: *For the Healing of the Nations*

GTG346

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Now go out into your community, God's community, and remember to always offer your other cheek. There is no love without forgiveness and there is no forgiveness without love. Focus on reconciliation with those you hold dear and know that God is with you. Always remember that God gives you the strength to forgive and to persevere. Go in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE (youth-provided special music)

By Sarah Leer, *Director of Children and Youth Ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville, Arkansas*

Sarah is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Columbia Theological Seminary (where she earned a Master of Arts in Theological Studies and a Master of Theology), and the Clinton School of Public Service. She is a practical theologian who is working on her Doctorate in Educational Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary. A lifelong Presbyterian, Sarah has served as a Young Adult Volunteer in New Orleans and as the Moderator of the Young Adult Volunteer Alumni Council, and currently serves as on the board for the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association and as the Adult Co-Moderator for the Youth Advisory Team for the Presbytery of Arkansas. Sarah enjoys singing Broadway songs in her car, going on adventures, geeking out over pop culture, traveling the world with friends, hanging out with her family, watching college football and attending youth conferences that include energizers.